

Review of: "Occupation from a perspective of complementarity - Part 2 - Proposals for situating a complementarity perspective in occupational science"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I really disliked this paper. It presents itself as one of these lofty academic analyses of what the literature on a particular subject says, without ever coming to grips with the reality of phenomena as we mortal humans experience it. I am an economist who has written a great deal about complementarity in economics, and I found myself really struggling to draw any realistic content or applicable examples from this paper. For people who care about what all these various writers said on diverse subjects, and the trivial differences in the way each of them framed the concepts under discussion, this paper may be found of interest. But the paper would be massively helped by an introduction that motivates the reader to have some interest in the subject matter, by defining its terms very specifically and carefully, and also by explaining the practical relevance of the various fine distinctions traced out in the paper. I'm trying to be kind and constructive, and perhaps I was the wrong person to review this paper. But I do know a lot about the notion of complementarity, at least in regard to its economic meaning and implications, although I could find almost nothing in this paper that contributed anything substantive to my own understanding of these issues. I found that quite disappointing, as – given the title of the paper and its focus on complementarity in social science – I expected to learn something useful for application to my own work. I would encourage the authors to move beyond simple taxonomy and into more realistic implications and how these ideas actually impact the conduct and findings of science.